placement of wagon orders on M/s. Burn Standard; M/s. Braithwaite and Jessop;

(c) whether a detailed enquiry has been made to fix up the responsibility;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Both mild and corten steel are used in the manufacture of wagons and both are supplied by the Railways as free supply to all wagon manufacturers. Vigilance checks conducted by Research, Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO) have revealed use of cheaper mild steel in place of corten steel by several manufacturers. Among the PSUs, some steel material received under steel transfer order of Railway Board from other wagon builders at Howrah Works of BSCL was found to have got mixed up.

(b) Railways have been unable to place any orders owing to outstanding wagon orders and comprehensive vigilance checks being carried out in this regard.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. RDSO under the Ministry of Railways is conducting a detailed enquiry.

(e) Does not arise.

Import of ship-breaking scrap

*391. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increasing import of ship-breaking scrap into the country has hit the profitability of domestic steel majors and led to inferior steel flowing into the market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to adverse impact on the environment, the ship-breaking activity has been abandoned by many countries including Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, etc.; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir. Import of old ships

for breaking has reduced as is evident from the LDT of ships broken during the last three years:

Year	LDT (in million tonnes)
1998-99	3.368
1999-2000	3.063
2000-01	2.205

(b) Ship-breaking activity keeps shifting from one country to another due to various factors like cost of labour, demand for scrap, impact on environment, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Grant of computer advance in CCRUM

*392. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan sanctioned to the employees of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for the purchase of personal computer;

(b) the details thereof alongwith their designation, pay-scale and basic pay at the time of the sanction;

(c) whether all such loanies were eligible according to their status and pay; and

(d) if not, the reasons for sanctioning the advance and who is responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) An amount of Rs. 5,95,000/- and Rs. 8,57,000/- was sanctioned to the employees of CCRUM as advance during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively for the purchase of personal computers.

(b) The details of the employees alongwith their designation and scale of pay at the time of sanction of advance are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) All employees who received loan were not eligible. In some cases, conditions were relaxed by Director, CCRUM. The Council has been directed to effect recoveries in such cases.